

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A cage member engageable with a nut member having a threaded aperture, thereby providing a cage nut assembly, said cage member comprising a body configured to encage the nut member and having an aperture formed therein which is configured to allow access to the threaded aperture of the nut member when the nut member is generally engaged by said cage member, said body having a base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion, and a seam defined between said first and second arm portions, at least one of said first and second arm portions having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion configured to be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said seam being provided proximate to the mating surface.
2. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one protrusion is positioned proximate to said seam.
3. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein said first arm portion and said second arm portion define a lower surface of said cage member which faces the mating surface, said at least one protrusion protruding from said lower surface of said cage member.

4. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one protrusion is a single protrusion which is segmented by said seam to define adjacent segments of said single protrusion which are proximate to one another such that said seam is provided therebetween and such that said adjacent segments of said protrusion form a generally whole protrusion, said adjacent segments of said protrusion being weldable to the mating surface and to one another along said seam.

5. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 4, wherein said seam extends between said adjacent segments of said protrusion such that each said adjacent segment of said protrusion comprises generally half of said generally whole protrusion.

6. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one protrusion is a pair of protrusions, each said protrusion being segmented by said seam to define adjacent segments of each said protrusion which are proximate to one another such that said seam is provided therebetween and such that said adjacent segments of each said protrusion form a generally whole protrusion, said adjacent segments of each said protrusion being weldable to the mating surface and to one another along said seam.

7. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 6, wherein said seam extends between said adjacent segments of each said protrusion such that each said adjacent segment of each said protrusion comprises generally half of said generally whole protrusions.

8. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one protrusion is formed as a dimple.

9. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one protrusion is formed as a tab.

10. (Original) A cage member engageable with a nut member having a threaded aperture, thereby providing a cage nut assembly, said cage member comprising a body configured to engage the nut member and having an aperture formed therein which is configured to allow access to the threaded aperture of the nut member when the nut member is generally engaged by said cage member, said body having a plurality of sidewalls, two of said sidewalls having free ends which are proximate to one another, and a seam defined between said free ends of said two sidewalls, at least one of said two sidewalls having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion configured to be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said seam being provided proximate to the mating surface.

11. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 10, wherein said at least one protrusion is positioned proximate to said seam.

12. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 10, wherein two sidewalls define a bottom edge of said cage member which faces the mating surface, said at least one protrusion protruding from said bottom edge of said cage member.

13. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 12, wherein said at least one protrusion is a single protrusion which is segmented by said seam to define adjacent segments of said single protrusion which are proximate to one another such that said seam is provided therebetween and such that said adjacent segments of said protrusion form a generally whole protrusion, said adjacent segments of said protrusion being weldable to the mating surface and to one another along said seam.

14. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 13, wherein said seam extends between said adjacent segments of said protrusion such that each said adjacent segment of said protrusion comprises generally half of said generally whole protrusion.

15. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 12, wherein said at least one protrusion is formed on said bottom edge of one of said two sidewalls proximate to said free end thereof such that said one protrusion overlaps onto said bottom edge of said other of said two sidewalls proximate to said free end thereof.

16. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 15, wherein said seam extends between said one overlapping protrusion and said bottom edge of said other of said two sidewalls proximate to said free end thereof such that said one overlapping protrusion and said bottom edge are weldable to one another along said seam.

17. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 10, wherein said at least one protrusion is formed as a tab.

18. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 10, wherein one of said sidewalls having a free end has a dove-tail pocket provided therein and wherein said other one of said sidewalls having a free end has a dove-tail extension provided thereon which is capable of being positioned within said dove-tail pocket to interlock said two sidewalls together.

19. (Original) A cage member as defined in claim 10, wherein a nut servicing window is provided proximate to one of said plurality of sidewalls and wherein a flange is provided which covers a portion of said window and which is bendable to allow access to the nut member when the nut member is encaged within said cage member.

20. (Currently amended) A cage member as defined in claim 10, wherein at least one two of said plurality of sidewalls ~~have foldable arms~~ has a foldable arm extending therefrom which ~~are~~ is configured to fold around a portion of a lower surface of the nut member to support the nut member when the nut member is encaged within said cage member.

21. (Original) A cage nut assembly comprising:

a nut member having a threaded aperture therethrough; and

a cage member having a body configured to encage said nut member and having an aperture formed therein which is configured to allow access to said threaded aperture of said nut member when said nut member is generally engaged by said cage member, said body having a base portion and first and second arm portions extending from said base portion, and a seam defined between said first and second arm portions, at least one of said first and second arm portions having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion configured to be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said seam being provided proximate to the mating surface.

22. (Original) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 21, wherein said at least one protrusion is a single protrusion which is segmented by said seam to define adjacent segments of said single protrusion which are proximate to one another such that said seam is provided therebetween and such that said adjacent segments of said protrusion form a generally whole protrusion, said adjacent segments of said protrusion being weldable to the mating surface and to one another along said seam.

23. (Original) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 21, wherein said at least one protrusion is a pair of protrusions, each said protrusion being segmented by said seam to define adjacent segments of each said protrusion which are proximate to one another such that said seam is provided therebetween and such that said adjacent segments of each said protrusion form a generally whole protrusion, said adjacent segments of each said protrusion being weldable to the mating surface and to one another along said seam.

24. (Original) A cage nut assembly comprising:

a nut member having a threaded aperture therethrough; and

a cage member having a body configured to encage said nut member and having an aperture formed therein which is configured to allow access to said threaded aperture of said nut member when said nut member is generally engaged by said cage member, said body having a plurality of sidewalls, two of said sidewalls having free ends which are proximate to one another, and a seam defined between said free ends of said two sidewalls, at least one of said two sidewalls having at least one protrusion, said at least one protrusion configured to be weldable to a mating surface to secure said cage member to the mating surface, said seam being provided proximate to the mating surface, said two sidewalls defining a bottom edge of said cage member which faces the mating surface, said at least one protrusion protruding from said bottom edge of said cage member.

25. (Original) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 24, wherein said at least one protrusion is a single protrusion which is segmented by said seam to define adjacent segments of said single protrusion which are proximate to one another such that said seam is provided therebetween and such that said adjacent segments of said protrusion form a generally whole protrusion, said adjacent segments of said protrusion being weldable to the mating surface and to one another along said seam.

26. (Original) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 24, wherein said at least one protrusion is formed on said bottom edge of one of said two sidewalls proximate to said free end thereof such that said one protrusion overlaps onto said bottom edge of said other of said two sidewalls proximate to said free end thereof.

27. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 1, wherein said body includes at least one flange member which is configured to be moved in a first direction in order to encage the nut member within said body.

28. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 27, wherein said at least one flange member is further configured to be moved in a second direction, which is opposite said first direction, in order to allow for removal of the nut member from within said body.

29. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 27, wherein said at least one flange member is integrally formed with said body.

30. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 27, wherein said body includes two flange members.

31. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 27, wherein said at least one flange member extends from said base portion of said body.

32. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 31, wherein said at least one flange member is generally L-shaped such that it has a first portion and a second portion which is generally angled from said first portion.

33. (New) A cage member as defined in claim 20, wherein two of said plurality of sidewalls have foldable arms extending therefrom which are configured to fold around said lower surface of the nut member to support the nut member when the nut member is encaged within said cage member.

34. (New) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 21, wherein said body includes at least one flange member which is configured to be moved in a first direction in order to encage said nut member within said body.

35. (New) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 34, wherein said at least one flange member is further configured to be moved in a second direction, which is opposite said first direction, in order to allow for removal of said nut member from within said body.

36. (New) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 34, wherein said at least one flange is integrally formed with said body.

37. (New) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 34, wherein said body includes two flange members.

38. (New) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 34, wherein said at least one flange member extends from said base portion of said body.

39. (New) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 38, wherein said at least one flange member is generally L-shaped such that it has a first portion and a second portion which is generally angled from said first portion.

40. (New) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 24, wherein said cage member has a nut servicing window provided proximate to one of said plurality of sidewalls and wherein a flange is provided which covers a portion of said window and which is bendable to allow access to said nut member when said nut member is encaged within said cage member.

41. (New) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 24, wherein at least one of said plurality of sidewalls of said cage member has a foldable arm extending therefrom which is configured to fold around a portion of a lower surface of said nut member to support said nut member when said nut member is encaged within said cage member.

42. (New) A cage nut assembly as defined in claim 41, wherein two of said plurality of sidewalls of said cage member have foldable arms extending therefrom which are configured to fold around said portion of said lower surface of said nut member to support said nut member when said nut member is encaged within said cage member.